

TO OUR  
REVEREND

AND

VVell-beloved Brethren

THE

Assembly of Divines at VVestminster,

THE

Ministers of LONDON, and all o-  
*ther well-affected Brethren of the Ministry*  
in ENGLAND.

Presented to the Ministers of London  
*this 13th. of December 1647.*

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*Decemb. 13. 1647.*

*Imprimatur Ja. Cranford.*

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LONDON,  
Printed for Ralph Smith; 1647.

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T O  
Our Reverend and welbeloved Bre-  
thren, The Assembly of Divines at  
Westminster.

Right Reverend and dearly beloved Brethren:

S the Generall Assembly of this Church, and their Commissioners have upon many former occasions, expressed their great respects and speciall affection to our Brethren of England, and how much they valued and minded the Lords work there: Of which also their actions have been reall Testimonies. So we have thought good in this present juncture, or rather dis-juncture of affaires to adde this new Testimony and symbole of brotherly love. And so much the more, lest either the Commissioners of this Church, their returne from London to their particular flocks, after foure yeares absence; or any informations spread by disaffected persons might make some of our Brethren in that Kingdome, grow somewhat lesse confident of the constancy of our affection to them, and to that common cause, which both they and we did undertake, and are obliged to prosecute with our best endeavours, all the dayes of our lives. Wherefore wee doe at once both desire and trust that our Brethren will be as confident as ever Brethren were of Brethren, that by the



grace and assistance of Jesus Christ come what may come, no alteration of affairs whatsoever shall ever remove us from those principles and intentions, which have been professed before God and all the world, in our solemn Covenant, and in our publick Declarations from time to time. We should think it a greater sin in us then in others, and should certainly expect a dreadful curse and exemplary judgement from the righteous God, if ever there shall be cause to say that the Church of *Scotland* remembered not the brotherly Covenant. We owe indeed all loyall subjection, and lawfull obedience to the King. Neither shall our prayers and best endeavours bee wanting for the preservation and defence of his Royall person and authority in the preservation and defence of the true Religion and liberties of the Kingdomes: but God forbid that wee should ever separate or connive at any who would separate what the Covenant linketh together, the glory of God and good of Religion, being alwayes the principall, and Gods interest more then Cæsars, although not exclusive of Cæsars.

And now deare Brethren, although we are confident of you through the Lord, that you neither are, nor will be otherwise minded then to stand fast in the truth of Christ, and to be faithfull to the death in the Covenant you have taken: yet give us leave to stir you up, by putting you in remembrance, That whereto you and we have already attained, there may bee a walking by the same rule, and minding of the same thing.

The Directory of worship being about two yeares agoe agreed upon by the Assemblies, and Parliaments of both Kingdomes.

The Doctrinall part of Church Government agreed upon by the reverend & learned Assembly of Divines was at the same time with the *Directory* of worship approved by the generall Assembly and ratified by the Parliament of this Kingdome, the *Confession of Faith* is also approved by the last generall Assembly as sound and orthodoxe for the matter, and agreed unto on their part, that it be a part of the uniformity and a Confession of Faith for the Churches of Christ in the three Kingdomes.

The other things communicated from thence unto this Church, namely a *Directory* of Church Government Catechisme, and new paraphrase of the Psalms in metre are printed and published here, to be considered and examined against the next generall Assembly to be held in July 1648, we wish and hope that you all may stand fast and firme together in the same principles & rules, and that these results of so long and learned Syndicall debates may generally find acceptance through the Kingdome; It cannot be expected that such a Reformation as is according to the mind of Christ, and tendeth to the casting out of *Satan's* Kingdome, to the censuring of prophannesse, and suppressing of errours and heresie, can be carried on without a mighty and strong opposition: But how strong soever the opposition be, it is but the strength of *Satan* and wicked men; the weapons of your warre farre (if well handled) are more strong and mighty through God to the casting downe of every thing that exalteth it selfe against the Kingdome of Christ. The eyes of God, Angells, and Man, are now in a more speciall manner upon you, observing how to acquit your selves in this time of tryall.

Blessed

Blessed shall they be whoſoever ſhall not be offended at the covenant and cauſe of Chriſt, but ſhall bee ready to ſpeake, doe or ſuffer for it, whatſoever God calleth them unto; and ſhall neither be aſhamed of it when it is ſet aſide and abandoned by many, nor afraid to own it, and to give a good and honeſt Teſtimony for it, even when it is oppoſed and persecuted.

We know your temptations are many and great, yet ſuch as God hath in his word forewarned you of, promiſing withall that with your temptation; he will make a way to eſcape that ye may be able to beare it: Faithfull is he who hath called you, who alſo will doe it. When you are preſſed out of meaſure and above ſtrength, it is that you ſhould not truſt to your ſelves but to God; So that when you are weak then are you ſtrong, and when the adverſaries of truth are ſtrong, then are they weak. Be it therefore far from you, to be overcome with the tentations either on the right hand by compliance, and doing evill that good may come of it; or on the left, by a deſpondency of ſpirit, and caſting away of your confidence, which as we truſt you will not; ſo if any among you ſhould, there wil be cauſe to ſay to him as once it was ſaid to *Job*, Behold thou haſt inſtructed many, and ſtrengthened the weake hands. Thy words have upholden him that was falling, and thou haſt ſtrengthened the feeble knees: But now it is come upon thee and thou fainteſt, it toucheth thee, and thou art troubled. It is indeed the amazement of the Chriſtian world, that after ſuch a Solemn Covenant for extirpation of heretie and ſchiſme, theſe pernicious plants have been ſuffered to ſpread more then ever before.

Tis alſo a ſtupendious judgement of God that a little



the horn should grow forth, and wax great, and have  
 an host given it against the daily sacrifice by reason  
 of transgression, yea, to cast downe the truth to the  
 ground, practiseing and prospering, and even by  
 peace destroying many. Such things God hath per-  
 mitted long agoe, yet but for a time, having pre-  
 limited a certaine period thereunto. Truth was at  
 last victorious and so shall be. Meane while the great-  
 er and more horrid the present evils be, tis the more  
 necessary for you, and you have the clearer call from  
 God to give testimony against them and the greater  
 were the sinne and danger if you should not. But we  
 are the more confident that you shall not fall under  
 this sinne and danger, because you have already by  
 your Sermons and Writings so much witnessed for  
 the truth, and against the errours of these times.  
 This we must further say from our owne experience,  
 that faithfull indeavours of these who were both few  
 and weake, in the greatest extremities, and in the dif-  
 ficulties appeared most in-superable, have not wanted  
 a blessing and comfortable successe. God can as ea-  
 sily drive all the monstrous Errours and Heresies  
 out of *England*, as once he tooke away all the locusts  
 out of *Egypt* by a mighty strong west wind, so that  
 there remained not one locust in all the coasts of *Egypt*.  
 God can make the earth to open her mouth, and  
 swallow up the flood which the Dragon cast out of his  
 mouth: it is not in vaine in the worst of times to bee  
 witnesses for Christ and for his truth, to do duty and  
 trust God with events. As many as walke according  
 to this rule, and will yet sincerely constantly and real-  
 ly endeavour that by their Covenant they are bound  
 to do, shall find that their labour is not in vaine in the  
 Lord.

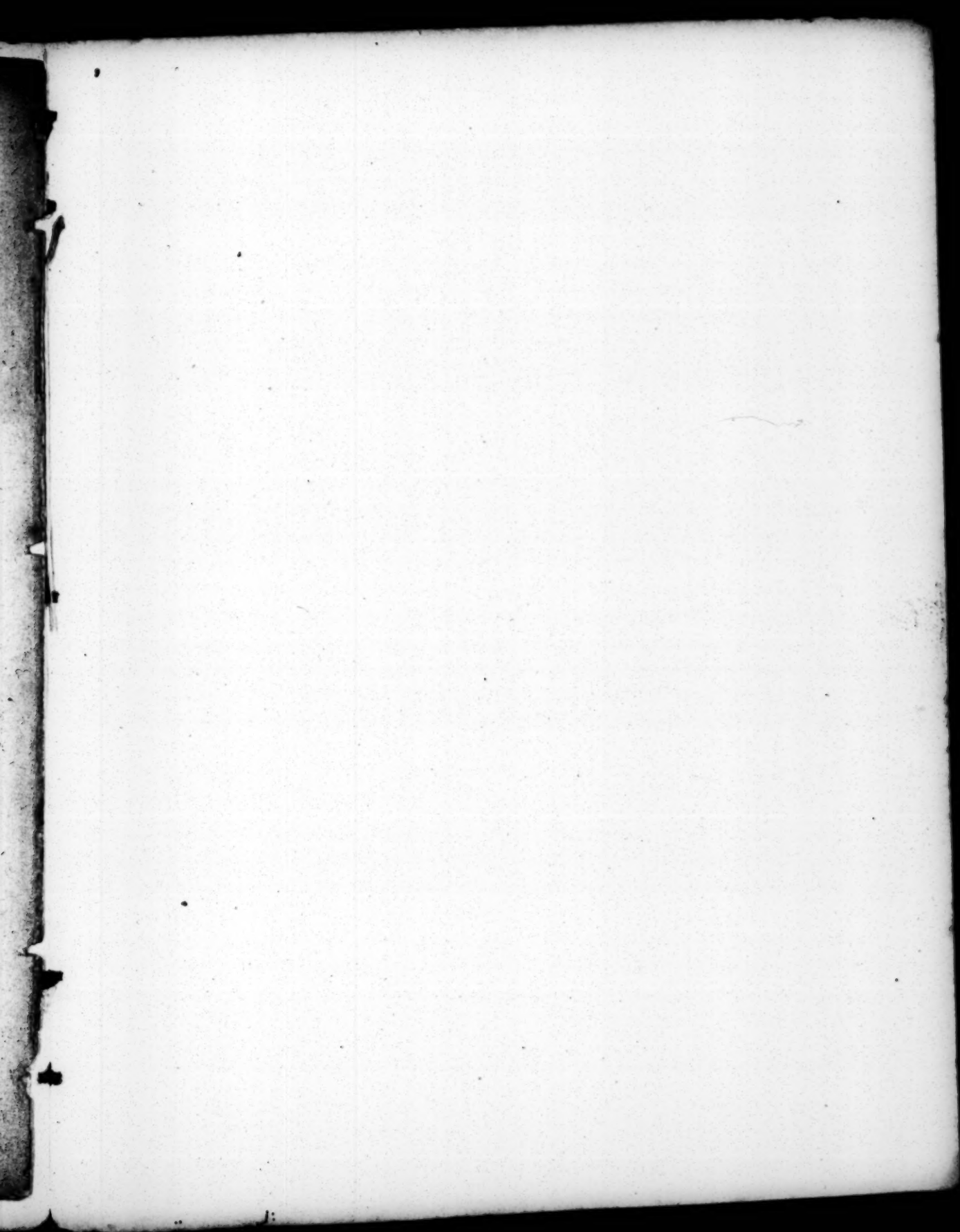
Lord, the very glory of Iesus Christ is highly concerned, and his name interest, and engaged to repudiate, disclaime and overthrow those wayes of Errour, Schisme, Heresie, selfe interest, and carnall policy, falsely tattered by many upon Christ, under the names of tender Consciences, Saints, and the like, not least. And for our part you are in our hearts to dye and live with you, and we cease not to make mention of you in our prayers daily: beleeving also that God hath thoughts of peace towards you and not of evill, to give you an expected end; and that when he hath humbled his people under his mighty hand, and brought them to an acknowledgment of those offences which are the true causes of his controversie, he will awake for their helpe, and appeare for their joy; And then they who are by a temporary successe hardened in wayes of errour or malignancy, shall see it and be ashamed, and shall wonder and perish, but people shall be upon Israel.

Subscribed in name of the  
Edinburgh 26 of Commission of the  
Nov. 1647. generall Assembly of the  
Kirke of Scotland by

M. Robert Douglas Moderator.

FINIS.





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